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Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-fifth session
6-16 March 2001
Agenda item 3
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina,* Georgia,* Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan,* Pakistan, Suriname,* Tajikistan and Turkey: draft resolution

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its resolutions 39/2 of 31 March 1995, 40/1 of 22 March 1996, 41/1 of 21 March 1997, 42/2 of 13 March 1998, 43/1 of 12 March 1999 and 44/1 of 2 March 2000,

Recalling also the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of women and children in areas of armed conflict,

Welcoming the adoption of the Beijing Declaration[1] and Platform for Action[2] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, including the provisions regarding violence against women and children,

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they have caused,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence committed against the civilian population, including women and children in areas of armed conflict, including

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

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capturing them as hostages, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of war,[3]

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

1. *Condemns* violent acts in contravention of international humanitarian law against civilian women and children in areas of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, including the immediate release of such women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;

2. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law in armed conflict and to take all necessary measures for the protection of these women and children and for their immediate release;

3. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for these women and children;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and efforts to facilitate the release of these women and children;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session.

[3] United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

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Botswana*, Lesotho, Namibia*, South Africa*, Swaziland*, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia*: draft resolution

Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing that women play a vital role in the social and economic development of their countries and therefore profoundly concerned by the fact that out of 36.1 million people living with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) today, women now represent about half of all people over age fifteen living with HIV and AIDS,

Noting with great concern that the proportion of women becoming infected with HIV is growing in every region, that in sub-Saharan Africa the majority of those living with HIV are women and that, in the younger age brackets (fifteen to twenty-four years of age), girls are at higher risk of HIV infection and more girls than boys are now infected,

Mindful that the majority of women and the girl child in most developing countries do not enjoy full social and economic rights, such as education, health care and welfare, that these inequalities begin early in life and render women and the girl child unable to protect their sexual and reproductive health, thus increasing their risk and vulnerability to HIV infection, and that they therefore suffer disproportionately from the consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

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Recognizing that poverty, negative cultural practices and the subordinate status of women in the household, community and society render women especially vulnerable to HIV/sexually transmitted infections,

Recognizing also that women, in particular young girls, are physiologically and biologically more vulnerable than men to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and yet lack access to, and/or receive, minimal health care and support when infected,

Noting with concern the link and decreased attention to sexually transmitted infections which increase the risk of transmission of HIV in women and girls,

Noting also with concern that approximately 80 per cent of infected women have been infected through unprotected sex with an infected male partner, and acknowledging, therefore, that men have a shared responsibility towards protecting their own and women's sexual health,

Acknowledging that millions of women do not have access to means that have proved effective in preventing infection, lowering infection rates and improving the quality of life, such as male and female condoms, affordable anti-retroviral drugs, relevant preventive education, acceptable counselling and testing services,

Noting the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa and the efforts of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsoring organizations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank, to empower women through capacity development programmes, as well as programmes that provide women with access to development resources and strengthen their networks that offer care and support to women affected by HIV/AIDS,

1. *Welcomes* the decision to convene the Organization of African Unity Special Summit on HIV/AIDS in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2001, and the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in June 2001;

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the HIV/AIDS goals and objectives contained in the political declaration[1] and further actions and initiatives[2] to implement the Beijing Declaration[3] and the Platform for Action,[4] as adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

3. *Also reaffirms* the rights of women and the girl child infected and affected by HIV/AIDS/sexually transmitted infections to have access to health, education and social services and to be protected from all forms of discrimination, stigma, abuse and neglect;

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[1] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

4. *Further reaffirms* the human rights of girls and women to equal access to education, skills training and employment opportunities as a means to reduce their vulnerability to HIV and sexually transmitted infections;

5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen women's economic independence and to protect and promote their human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow them to better protect themselves from HIV/sexually transmitted infections;

6. *Stresses* that every effort should be made by Governments, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to place combating HIV/AIDS as a priority in the development agenda and to implement effective prevention strategies and programmes, especially for the most vulnerable populations, including women, young girls and infants, also taking into account prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV;

7. *Calls upon* the international community, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS, including efforts at providing affordable anti-retroviral drugs, particularly in favour of women and young girls, in the worst-hit regions in Africa and where the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains;

8. *Urges* Governments to take steps to create an environment that promotes compassion and support for people infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, to provide the legal framework that will protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, to enable those who are vulnerable to have access to appropriate voluntary counselling services and to encourage efforts to reduce discrimination and stigmatization;

9. *Urges* Governments, with the assistance of relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to create an environment and conditions that will take care of and support children orphaned by AIDS;

10. *Encourages* Governments to recognize the challenges facing girls and women, particularly older women, who are primary caregivers for people living with HIV/AIDS, and to provide them with the necessary economic and psychosocial support;

11. *Urges* Governments, with the assistance of relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to adopt a long-term, timely, coherent and integrated AIDS prevention policy, with public information and life skills-based education programmes specifically tailored to the needs of women and girls within their sociocultural contexts and sensitivities and the specific needs in their life cycle;

12. *Encourages* Governments and civil society to support women's groups and community organizations in changing harmful traditions and practices affecting the health of women and girls and to take steps to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including rape and sexual coercion, which aggravate the conditions fostering the spread of the epidemic;

13. *Encourages* accelerated research on vaccine development and intensified additional research on promoting the female condom, microbicides and other

options that offer women more control over the protection of their reproductive sexual health;

14. *Requests* Governments to provide comprehensive health care for women and girls with HIV, including treatment for opportunistic diseases and reproductive health services, and also ensure that condoms and treatment for sexually transmitted infections are affordable and available in places accessible to women while ensuring their privacy;

15. *Urges* Governments and networks to continue advocating, lobbying and entering into negotiations with multinational drug companies for a drastic reduction in the market prices of HIV/AIDS-related drugs and diagnostics to ensure their availability to women and girls living with HIV/AIDS;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts at coordination by the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) and the efforts in promoting sexual and reproductive health education for young people, in particular girls, while encouraging them to delay sexual initiation and, in this context, urges that greater attention be given to the education of men and boys about their roles and their responsibilities in preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, to their partners;

17. *Requests* the Joint United Nations Programmes on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in their efforts to prevent HIV infection, to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls in Africa;

18. *Invites* the relevant entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, to mainstream gender policies and programmes integrating HIV/AIDS activities;

19. *Takes note with appreciation* of section I on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS of the report of the Secretary-General[5] on thematic issues before the Commission on the Status of Women, and invites the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

[5] E/CN.6/2001/9.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system

Argentina, Guatemala*, Iceland*, Israel*, Italy, Mexico, Norway*, Turkey, Switzerland* and United States of America: draft resolution

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[2] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[4] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict[7] and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[2] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.
[4] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.
[5] General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[6] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.
[7] General Assembly resolution 54/263, annex I.

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pornography,[8] the Beijing Declaration[9] and Platform for Action,[10] the Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session,[11] accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[12] and other instruments of human rights and international law,

Recalling that Afghanistan is party to the Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide,[13] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[7] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[7] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Welcoming the substantive report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, and the conclusions contained therein, including the need to monitor and evaluate the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls who reside in all areas of Afghanistan,[14]

Also welcoming the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women,[15] which found "official, widespread and systematic violation of the human rights of women in Taliban controlled areas",

[*Deploring*] the deteriorating economic, social and cultural conditions of women and girls in all areas of Afghanistan, in particular in areas under the control of the Taliban movement, as documented by the continued and substantiated reports of grave violations to the physical security and integrity as well as the human rights of women and girls, including discrimination in terms of access to health care, to level and types of education, to employment outside the home, to freedom of movement and to freedom of association,

Welcoming the fourth report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, entitled "Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan,"[16] and of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, in particular his special focus on violations of the human rights of women and girls, especially in territories under the control of the Taliban faction,

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[8] Ibid., annex II.

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[10] Ibid., annex II.

[11] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[13] General Assembly resolution 260 A (III).

[14] E/CN.6/2001/2/Add.1.

[15] E/CN.4/2001/68/Add.4.

[16] A/55/346.

Deeply concerned about the detrimental impact of these harmful conditions on the well-being of Afghan women and the children in their care, and the detrimental effect of the restrictions to women's and girls' education and women's employment on the functions of Afghan society and the reconstruction and development of the country,

Expressing its appreciation for the international community's support of and solidarity with the women and girls of Afghanistan, being supportive of the women of Afghanistan who protest against violations of their human rights, and encouraging women and men worldwide to continue efforts to draw attention to their situation and to promote the immediate restoration of their ability to enjoy their human rights,

1. *Strongly condemns* the continuing grave violations of the human rights of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them in all areas of Afghanistan, particularly in areas under the control of the Taliban;

2. *Also condemns* the continued restrictions on women's access to health care and the systematic violation of the human rights of women in Afghanistan, including the restrictions on access to education and employment outside the home, on freedom of movement and on freedom from intimidation, harassment and violence, which have a serious detrimental effect on the well-being of Afghan women and the children in their care;

3. *Urges* the Taliban and other Afghan parties to recognize, protect, promote and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments, and to respect international humanitarian law;

4. *Urges* all the Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to bring to an end, without delay, all human rights violations against women and girls, and to take urgent measures to ensure:

(a) The repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls and those that impede the realization of all their human rights;

(b) The effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country;

(c) Respect for the equal right of women to work and their reintegration in employment in all segments of the Afghan society, as well as through the United Nations system and human rights organizations operating within Afghanistan;

(d) The equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(e) Respect for the right of women and girls to security of person, and that those responsible for physical attacks on women and girls are brought to justice;

(f) Respect for freedom of movement for women and girls;

(g) Respect for the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to protect their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes, and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes;

6. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, in conformity with the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, is based on the principle of non-discrimination, integrates a gender perspective, and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and to promote peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Urges* States to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women in Afghanistan and to mainstream a gender perspective in all aspects of their policies and actions related to Afghanistan;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment of the positions of Gender Adviser and Human Rights Adviser in the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator for Afghanistan in order to ensure more effective consideration and implementation of human rights and gender concerns in all United Nations programmes within Afghanistan, taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the inter-agency gender mission to Afghanistan conducted by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in November 1997;

9. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations activities in Afghanistan are carried out according to the principle of non-discrimination against women and girls, and that a gender perspective and special attention to the human rights of women and girls are fully incorporated into the work of the civil affairs unit established within the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, including the training and selection of staff, and that efforts be made to enhance the role of women in preventative diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan giving special attention to the human rights of women and girls and fully incorporating a gender perspective in his work;

11. *Appeals* to States and the international community to implement the recommendations of the inter-agency gender mission to Afghanistan under the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women;

12. *Urges* all Afghan factions, in particular the Taliban, to ensure the safety and protection of all United Nations and humanitarian workers in Afghanistan and to allow them, regardless of gender, to carry out their work unhindered;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system

Andorra*, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada*, Chile, Fiji*, Germany, Iceland*, Ireland*, Liechtenstein*, Mexico, Nauru*, New Zealand*, Norway*, Sweden*, Switzerland*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Vanuatu*: draft resolution

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Affirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and for achieving the overall goal of gender equality,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, in which the Council decided that the Commission on the Status of Women would have a catalytic role on mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes and would identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination,

Recalling also its resolution 41/6 of 21 March 1997[1] on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 7* (E/1997/27), chap. I, sect. C.

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Recalling further Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2[2] on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, in which there was a call for immediate and concrete steps to mainstream a gender perspective, including the implementation of the 1997/2 agreed conclusions as a matter of urgency and at the latest by the time of the five-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2000,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000, in which the Assembly, inter alia, invited the Economic and Social Council to continue policy coordination and inter-agency cooperation towards the achievement of the objectives of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including by considering dedicating specific segments to the advancement of women and implementation of the above-mentioned documents and by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all its work,

1. *Reaffirms* that the primary goal of mainstreaming a gender perspective is the achievement of gender equality as affirmed in the Beijing Platform for Action;

2. *Reaffirms also* that mainstreaming a gender perspective is integral to the empowerment of women and to achieving gender equality;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing commitment of the Secretary-General to mainstreaming a gender perspective into the United Nations system and the steps taken by various entities of the United Nations system to integrate a gender perspective into their work, including those outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;[3]

4. *Welcomes also* the statement on gender equality and mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations system issued by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at its first regular session of 1998;[4]

5. *Welcomes further* the work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, particularly its coordination and catalytic role in the area of gender mainstreaming, policy analysis and operational activities in the work programmes of the bodies of the United Nations system, and its work in compiling good practices, guidelines and indicators in the area of gender mainstreaming;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in future reports to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to assess progress made on mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further actions and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following decision:

The Economic and Social Council,

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[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1).

[3] E/CN.6/2001/2.

[4] ACC/1998/4, para. 63.

Having considered resolution 45/___ of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Decides to:

(a) Establish, in the context of its general segment, a regular item on its agenda on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the United Nations system to, inter alia, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, including the Secretariat, and consider further measures to strengthen implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system, including the development of guidelines and practical tools, such as, inter alia, performance indicators, mechanisms for accountability, gender training programmes and impact analyses, as well as the identification and compilation of best practices, and the use of Internet-based tools;

(b) Devote a future coordination segment, by 2005, to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system and to identify further strategies to accelerate their implementation, and as part of this review and appraisal, and to request functional commissions to report on the progress made in implementing the agreed conclusions 1997/2 in their work;

(c) Ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into all its work and, in order to enhance its ability to do so, requests the Secretary-General and bodies reporting to the Economic and Social Council to address the gender aspects of issues before the Council in their reports;

(d) Further intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences, building upon agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Council.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.